

# The Salt Lake Tribune

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## A YEAR WITH THE

### Great Salt Lake

**Locomotive Springs:** Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1931, some of the original wooden dikes still remain in this waterfowl refuge.

Locomotive Springs Waterfowl Management Area

**Gunnison Island:** From 3,000 to 18,000 adult white pelicans nest here each spring, making it one of the most important U.S. nesting areas. Some 12,000 to 19,000 California gulls also nest on the island.

Hill Air Force Training Range

**Minerals Production:** Six companies - which pay royalties to the state - remove about 1.6 million tons of salt annually by pumping water from the lake into evaporation ponds, then scooping up the mineral. Potash and magnesium also are extracted from the ponds.

Bonneville Speedway

**Salt Flats:** Sir Malcolm Campbell of Great Britain put the Salt Flats on the map in 1935 when he set a world land speed record of 301.33 miles per hour in a Napier-Campbell Special. Void of plant life, the foot-deep salt flats cover close to 40 square miles on the lake's west side.

**Lake Profile:** When it reached a record level in 1967, the Great Salt Lake covered approximately 2,300 square miles and contained 30-million acre feet of water. Today it is approximately 70 miles long, 30 miles wide and 4,200 feet above sea level. Because there's no outlet to the sea, salt and minerals from its major tributaries - the Bear, Weber and Jordan Rivers - accumulate in its waters. The average salt content is 20 percent on the north arm and 10 percent on the south arm. But concentrations have ranged from as high as 27 percent - when salt crystallizes - to as low as five percent.

**Antelope Island:** It's the largest of the lake's eight islands at 23,175 acres. Kit Carson and John C. Fremont - who surveyed the lake in 1844 - named the island for its impressive antelope herd. The last antelope was seen on the island in 1932, but the state plans to reintroduce the animals. Entrepreneurs introduced buffalo to the island in 1893, and the herd still thrives today. Before Antelope Island State Park closed in 1983 when floodwaters inundated the causeway, it hosted an average of 427,000 visitors a year. The park may open this fall.

**Golden Spike Historical Site:** The joining of railroad tracks here on May 10, 1869, effectively linked the East and West coasts of the United States. The event ranks among the most important in U.S. history.

Golden Spike National Historical Site

Indian Cave

Freemont Island

Carrington Island

Stansbury Island

AMAX Magnesium

Great Salt Lake State Park

Salt Lake City International Airport

Morton Salt

Saltair Marina

Sol-Air Salt

Mark Knudsen / The Salt Lake Tribune

**Wetlands:** Great Salt Lake wetlands provide critical habitat for migrating and nesting waterfowl and help local governments solve flood control problems. Treated sewage and industrial byproducts are discharged into the marshes, which naturally remove organic matter and toxic pollutants.

**Wildlife:** An estimated 250 species of birds - including bald eagles, great blue herons, white-faced ibis and phalaropes - find food and shelter on the lake's wildlife reserves. Fox, muskrats, weasels and ring-tailed cats are among the 64 mammals that make the lake home. Eight different snakes, 8 amphibians and 9 lizards also live there. Brine shrimp are the only creatures which actually survive in the lake's salty waters.

**Weather:** The Great Salt Lake can produce the so-called "lake effect," which enhances the amount of snow and rain that falls along the Wasatch Front. It also produces a 10 to 15 mph breeze on spring, summer and fall afternoons, and increases the amount of winter fog in surrounding valleys.

**Recreation:** Tourists from around the world flock to the beaches of the Great Salt Lake, whose briny waters help bathers float. The lake also draws sailboaters and an occasional power boater, and its marshes and wildlife management areas host hunters, school groups and naturalists.

**Geology:** The Great Salt Lake can be traced back to ancient Lake Bonneville, which covered much of western Utah and small parts of Idaho and Nevada during the Great Ice Age some 20,000 years ago. A natural earth dam in Cache Valley gave way about 14,500 years ago. Thirty-five million cubic feet of water per second gushed out of the opening, lowering the level of Lake Bonneville 300 feet. In the warmer and drier period which followed, Lake Bonneville receded and the Great Salt Lake was formed.

**Archaeology:** The first record of man - dating 12,000 years ago - was discovered in Danger Cave near Wendover. Other evidence of early man, including fine rock writing, can be found on Stansbury Island.

**Bear River Bird Refuge:** Established on April 23, 1928, this 65,000-acre, freshwater bird refuge, the largest on the lake, was one of the first in the federal system.

**Willard Bay:** Dike construction to create this freshwater reservoir started in 1957 and was completed in 1962. It's now popular with boaters, campers and anglers.

Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area

Ogden Bay Refuge

Excise taxes and duck stamp purchases paid by hunters helped build this 20,000-acre refuge, owned by the state.

Antelope Island

South Shore State Park

Salt Lake City International Airport

Morton Salt

Saltair Marina

Sol-Air Salt

Mark Knudsen / The Salt Lake Tribune

## Saudis Urge U. S. To Topple Saddam

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Saudi Arabia is pressing the Bush administration to organize a large covert action campaign in Iraq aimed at dividing Iraq's army and toppling Saddam Hussein, United States and allied officials say.

The Saudi initiative seeks an allied effort to supply arms and intelligence to Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq, Shiite Moslem fighters in the south, and Sunni Moslem opposition forces in central Iraq. The aim is to draw out and divide Saddam's last Republican Guard divisions protecting his strongholds around Baghdad and subject them to allied air assaults.

Saudi advocacy for a new and more aggressive campaign comes as the Bush administration is considering new steps to support Iraqi resistance forces with allied military power and to exploit growing

tensions in the Iraqi leadership in a manner that would hasten Saddam's downfall while leaving the formation of a successor government clearly in Iraqi hands.

The White House remains deeply concerned that the Iraqi leader is still in power at the outset of a presidential election year in which his survival has become a political issue. The ouster of Saddam before November's election would remove the shadow that the Iraqi leader casts over Bush's campaign and eliminate the possibility that Saddam could do harm to Bush's re-election effort through provocative statements emanating from Baghdad.

American and allied officials discussed those plans with a reporter because some believe that the disclosure will by itself instill confidence in Iraqi opposition forces, while others, who oppose some of See A-2, Column 1

## Go West — If You Can Find Room

By David Foster  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It didn't take a lot of charts and figures to convince Butch Barker that the wide-open West is filling up. He saw the light — literally — two years ago, when the little northern California town of Burney got its first traffic signal.

When Barker moved to Burney in 1981 for its clean air and country living, driving through town was clear sailing, as free as the mountains all around. Now it's stop, go, stop, go — and life isn't quite the same.

"It's a symbolic thing," Barker said. "Especially at first, you'd stop and immediately think of why the light was there and how it came to be."

How it came to be, for Burney and a thousand other towns in the American

## GROWING

1st of six articles about the American West

West, can be answered with one simple statistic: The West is by far the nation's fastest-growing region, with a 22 percent population jump in the 1980s, more than twice the national rate.

Newcomers are lured by the same qualities that beckoned early pioneers — open space, economic opportunity, a chance to start anew. But as more See A-3, Column 1

## EL NIÑO AND UTAH

A new term permeates weather talk these days. El Nino. Be it wet or dry, if it is extreme, El Nino (neen-yo) must be involved. But what does it mean?

A strong El Nino developed in 1982-83. The little couple of years, the weather around the world was out of whack. Remember those years in Utah? The State Street river? Sandbag brigades? The Thistle slide? A weaker El Nino surfaced in 1986-87, coinciding with a drought in the West.

Inside today, Salt Lake Tribune veteran weather reporter Mike Gorrell explores what one scientist called the "largest short-term climate fluctuation on the planet."

Story, illustration on A-13

## States Seeking Quick Fix for Budget Woes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ohio might sell its state liquor stores. Michigan wants to lease its prisons to the federal government. In New York, people who get sued might face an extra tax.

As state governments sink ever deeper into fiscal despair, legislators who are reconvening around the nation are groping for new and creative ways to turn red ink into black.

Raise taxes? Voters are fed up with that. Cut spending? Fine, if there's anything left to cut.

"We're past the niceties," said a Maryland state senator, Barbara A. Hoffman of Baltimore. "This is going to hurt."

In Maryland, which is facing a projected \$1.2 billion shortfall, the pain will be felt by state employees, some of whom are likely to be laid off or denied raises. It will be felt by welfare recipients, who are likely to take a cut in benefits. And it will be felt by taxpayers, who will find little taxes nibbling at their pocketbooks in unexpected places.

Maryland lawmakers are thinking of extending sales taxes to hitherto untaxed services, such as dry cleaning, cable television, data processing and auto repairs. They also might raise cigarette taxes. Among the states also considering cigarette-tax increases: Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio and South Dakota.

Budget balancing has always been the most important work of state legislatures, but it hasn't always been so all-consuming or so painful. It wasn't so long ago that many legislators considered abortion their hottest issue. Before that, it was drugs, or prisons, or crime.

No more.

See A-2, Column 4

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## WEATHER

Areas of low clouds and fog can be expected throughout the state today.

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## SPORTS

Karl Malone delivered and stamped his place in Jazz history Saturday night when he passed Adrian Dantley as the team's all-time leading scorer.

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## THE ARTS

Utah playwright Aden Ross' "K-Mille," inspired by French sculptor Camille Claudel's life, premieres at the Salt Lake Acting Company this week.

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## COMMENTARY

If the Legislature is serious about the state's plan for education, it will back the plan's words with cold, hard cash.

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## BUSINESS

It's taken a few years, but Utah shoppers finally have access to a burgeoning number of fine factory outlets.

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## TRAVEL

If you think you've seen a big party, think again. The unabashed bash they throw in Recife, Brazil, during Carnival is, well, of Amazonian proportions.

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## LIFESTYLES

Fang Chaochua came to Salt Lake City from Shanghai, China, and is practicing her art as an herbalist. Chinese medicine is based on yin and yang.

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## PARADE

As childless women watch the biological clock tick away, desperation often outweighs all else in the passion to be a mother. Ignoring risks, many women still try. Now, thanks to new fertility techniques, women are making it happen more — and at age 40 and older.

Magazine Insert

## The Great Salt Lake: Utah's Dead Sea Brims With Life, Myth and Mystery

By Tom Wharton  
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Nelson Ellinwood of Salt Lake City recalls the first time he took a friend duck hunting on the Great Salt Lake.

"We were rowing down the channel at twilight, right before the sun came up. You could hear the rumble and rustle of wings as they exploded off the water. They were like a train in the distance. You could see swarms of dark shapes off the water. It was spectacular."

Mr. Ellinwood is one of the few Utahns who have experienced the wealth of wildlife and colorful changes on the largest lake west of the Mississippi. Most residents view the Great Salt Lake with contempt or apathy — a dull, briny body of water plagued with stinking algae and waves of brine flies.

"You go there to be refreshed and often you are repulsed," says author Terry Tempest Williams, who's written two books about the lake. "It's a tough landscape. People once thought it was a body of fresh water with an outlet to the sea. In fact, it's a basin of old, old water. In that sense, it takes on a mythic character and one that does not yield itself easily to visitors."

Access is difficult. Most visitors — about 325,000 annually — see only the south shore adjacent to the waterlogged Saltair resort, where the lake's foul breath can be overwhelming. But Antelope Island State Park, closed since 1983 when flooding wiped out the causeway, is scheduled to open this fall. And visitors

### Yearlong Series to Raise Level of Lake Awareness

The Great Salt Lake is more than just a dead sea. It is a unique resource with a colorful human and natural history, as well as an untapped potential for recreation. Though it affects their weather, economy and lifestyle, few Utahns know much about their lake.

Veteran Salt Lake Tribune recreation writer Tom Wharton, in spending a year with the Great Salt Lake, will reveal in a 12-part series during 1992 the amazing facets, many not generally known, of this unusual and misunderstood natural wonder. The series will be published on the last Monday of each month in The Tribune's recreation section. It will conclude with an original essay on The Great Salt

lake by noted Utah author Terry Tempest Williams.

Here is the series's publication schedule by date and planned topics:

Jan. 27: Bald eagles on the lake  
Feb. 24: The lake's tributaries  
March 30: Fascinating geology  
April 27: Rebirth of a marsh  
May 25: Nesting island birds  
June 29: Recreation: past and future  
July 27: Shorebirds: unknown stories  
Aug. 31: Fish, shrimp and mammals  
Sept. 28: The unexplored shores  
Oct. 26: Hunting: its key role  
Nov. 30: Industries' roles  
Dec. 27: An essay

lions of bacteria color the water.

Here's a real surprise: there's no stench on the open waters. "That smell is not the lake, it's the shore," says John Rowland, a Salt Lake City resident who sails a catamaran. "It's a lot like being on the ocean. You can't see the bottom. Land is quite a ways away. It's peaceful, quiet and serene."

Those searching for the bizarre can find it in plant life along the lake's salt marshes. There are bushes with microscopic salt glands that burst like balloons, and grasses that secrete salt crystals on their leaves.

"These marshes are like wilderness," See A-4, Column 1